Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-09 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 COME-00 TRSE-00 STR-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 /074 W

-----292038Z 046180 /56

R 290512Z APR 77 FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0303 INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON AMEMBASSY TOKYO USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS CANBERRA 2977

STATE PASS AGRICULTURE FOR MEEKER AND MCCONNELL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, JA, AS

SUBJ: AUSTRALIA OFFERS JAPAN PACKAGE DEAL ON SUGAR

- 1. CSR LTD OFFICIALS ANNOUNCED ON APRIL 28 THAT THE AUST. SUGAR INDUSTRY WAS PREPARED TO GIVE JAPAN CERTAIN CONCESSIONS IN ITS LONG-TERM SUGAR CONTRACT IN EXCHANGE FOR APPROPRIATE CHANGES IN THE IMPORT STRUCTURE AND FISCAL ASPECTS OF THE JAPANESE SUGAR INDUSTRY. DETAILS OF THE OFFER WERE NOT MADE PUBLIC, BUT THE TRHRUST OF THE NEW DEAL WOULD ALLOW FOR A PRICE REDUCTION OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS ALONG WITH A PROVISION FOR EXTENDING THE FIVE YEAR CONTRACT FOR AN UNSPECIFIED TIME. THE CONTRACT WOULD PROVIDE FOR FUTURE PRICE INCREASES, OR SOME FORM OF PRICE INDEXATION AFTER THE FIRST THREE YEARS.
- 2. THE JAPANESE CONTRACT WAS NEGOTIATED WHEN WORLD SUGAR PRICES WERE AT AN ALL TIME HIGH IN 1974. THE PRICE IN THE CONTRACT WHEN WRITTEN WAS REPORTED TO BE 229 POUNDS STERLING PER METRIC TON. THE CURRENT WORLD PRICE IS ABOUT 145 POUNDS STERLING.

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EM ACCORDING TO CSR OFFICIALS, THE JAPANESE SUGAR REFINERS ASSOCIATION HAS NOT PUT FORTH AN OFFICIAL POSITION, BUT WAS REPORTED TO BE DISSATISIFIED WITH CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE NEW PACKAGE DEAL OFFER BY AUSTRALIA.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a **Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED**

Concepts: SUGAR, CONTRACTS Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 29-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am

Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am Decaption Note: Disposition Action: n/a

Disposition Approved on Date: Disposition Case Number: n/a Disposition Comment:

Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am Disposition Event:

Disposition Event:
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CANBER02977
Document Source: CORE

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Expiration: Film Number: D770150-1009 Format: TEL

From: CANBERRA Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977046/aaaaaemm.tel

Line Count: 60 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History: Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Message ID: b43cb2a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION EB

Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 02-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 2813762 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: AUSTRALIA OFFERS JAPAN PACKAGE DEAL ON SUGAR

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, JA, AS

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b43cb2a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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